

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Green Spring

other names/site number VDHR File No. 029-0025

2. Location

street & number 4601 Green Spring Road not for publication
city or town Alexandria vicinity X
state Virginia code VA county Fairfax code 059 zip 22312

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: other (explain):

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the
National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

Date of Action

Signature of Keeper

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>6</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>LANDSCAPE</u>	Sub: <u>garden</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>LANDSCAPE</u>	Sub: <u>park</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>museum</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)ColonialLate 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)foundation stoneroof asphaltwalls brick

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)Landscape ArchitectureArchitecture**Period of Significance** ca. 1777; 1942**Significant Dates** ca. 17771942**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)**Cultural Affiliation** _____**Architect/Builder** Farrand, Beatrix (landscape architect)Macomber, Walter (architect)**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.☐ previously listed in the National Register☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register☐ designated a National Historic Landmark☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # 277☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____**Primary Location of Additional Data**☒ State Historic Preservation Office☐ Other State agency☐ Federal agency☐ Local government☐ University☐ OtherName of repository: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property** approx. 9.5 acres**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	312725	4299372	2	18	312750	4299118
3	18	312872	4299372	4	18	312735	4299306

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sherrie L. Chapman, Historian II

Organization: Green Spring Gardens, Fairfax County Park Authority date 2/28/03

street & number: 4603 Green Spring Road telephone 703-642-5173

city or town Alexandria state VA zip code 22312

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Fairfax County Park Authority

street & number 12055 Government Center Parkway telephone 703-324-8578

city or town Fairfax state VA zip code 22035

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Green Spring
Fairfax County, VA**

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Summary Description

The historic designed landscape of Green Spring is approximately 9.5 acres located within a park, Green Spring Gardens, owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority. The property is fairly flat with some gently rolling areas and a steep ravine from the lawn area surrounding the brick house to the stream bed of Turkey Cock Run. Several springs suggest the origin of the historic Green Spring name.

When John Moss bought the property in 1777, Green Spring encompassed more than 300 acres of woods and farm land.¹ The brick house at Green Spring was probably built some time shortly after Moss's purchase. From 1777 to 1914, the property had a series of owners who farmed the land. The period of historical significance for the property, however, is the colonial date of construction of the brick house and the 1942 Colonial Revival-style redesign of the landscape and the buildings by two American masters, Beatrix Farrand and Walter Macomber.

Today the landscape retains most of the architectural aspects of the 1942 redesign and includes two historic buildings, designed gardens and naturalized areas, one archaeological site of an eighteenth-century outbuilding, and two historic structures of unknown function.

Detailed Description

Green Spring's history is a reflection of northern Virginia's land use history adapting, not always successfully, from a rural agricultural landscape, to a small family farm, to a country estate holding its own against suburban sprawl and commercial development. By 1942, Green Spring had landscape features and buildings that Beatrix Farrand and Walter Macomber skillfully incorporated into a historic designed landscape of beauty and grace.

Landscape features include the following:

Historic designed garden (Contributing resource: site)

Description: Cedars and hardwood trees, planted to screen the brick house from Little River Turnpike and Green Spring Road, highlight the Farrand design for the garden in front (south facade) of the brick house at Green Spring. A low stone wall designed by Beatrix Farrand created a terrace that separated the property from Green Spring Road. A gravel driveway from Green Spring Road, along the front of the house and back to Green Spring Road, delineated the garden at the front of the house.

At the rear of the house (the north facade), the Farrand plan provided a large semicircular formal garden with a grass lawn. The outer edge of the semicircle is defined by a boxwood hedge installed under Beatrix Farrand's direction. Behind the hedge are

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hemlocks and white pine. Previously the landscape in this area sloped sharply to a shallow (two-foot-high) retaining wall of rose quartz. Under Farrand's direction, the area was leveled and, in some areas of the semicircle, up to four feet of granite was added to the retaining wall.

Stone steps through the center of the boxwood hedge and retaining wall lead to an area of informal garden rooms and paths. Azaleas surrounded two sides of one room behind the boxwood hedge. To the east the room opened to reveal a path toward a grassy area shaded by a large sycamore tree. To the west, another room, formerly planted with hemlocks and woody shrubs, provided shady areas and further screened the brick house from Green Spring Road. Beyond the informal areas, the elevation drops dramatically to a naturalized area and Turkey Cock Run below. Just a few feet north of the stream bed are two ponds. The ponds may have been mill ponds from an earlier era that had silted in; under Michael Straight's direction, his gardener, John Quast, dug out the ponds and incorporated them into the naturalized landscape. A tennis court (now covered with topsoil and meadow plants) was located north of the ponds.²

Nearly all the aspects of the original Farrand plan remain at Green Spring today. The extant boxwood border was created from boxwood growing on the property prior to the Straights' ownership and replanted under Farrand's direction. A significant number of trees delineated on Farrand's plan survive. The entire retaining wall along the semicircle in the northern section of the garden and a significant portion of the terrace retaining wall along the southern section of the garden are still visible. While few of Farrand's other residential gardens survive today, her influence on the historic landscape at Green Spring is largely intact.

Additions: In the 1990s, a brick border was added to the house side of the semicircle in the rear yard. A continuing topic of discussion at Green Spring is the possible removal of that brick border. Also in the 1990s, an herb garden was added to the east side of the rear yard; that garden is slated for removal within the next year.

Losses: The barn and the log cabin, shown on the Farrand design for the garden were demolished by the Fairfax County Park Authority. A small portion of the wall along the terraced front yard has been removed. A stand of hemlocks on the west side of the back yard had to be removed because they were dead or dying. Other trees and woody plants indicated in the design are no longer present or never may have been planted. Some losses to erosion along the ravine edge of the informal garden behind the boxwoods have been noted.

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Efforts are currently underway to stabilize the edge to prevent further erosion. Finally, the circular gravel driveway that originally circled the garden at the front of the house was partially removed but may be replaced in the near future.

Brick house (Contributing resource: building #1)

Description: HABS documentation records the house as built in 1740 and a Virginia Landmarks Commission survey form lists the date as 1760. No documentary evidence has been located to determine the date of construction or the builder of the original brick house at Green Spring, but based on surviving architectural elements it was probably constructed near the time that John Moss acquired the property in 1777. The original portion of the house measured 78 feet by 25 feet and was two and one-half stories high. The basement under the core house was altered during the Straight era to accommodate modern heating and air conditioning but still retains original brick foundations and chimney supports. The first and second floors of the house, as originally constructed, had a central hallway with doorways opening off the hall to rooms on either side. End wall chimneys with four flues suggest two rooms on each side of the hall on both the first and second floors. The third level was probably an unfinished attic.³

Additions: Photographs taken in the 1880s show a one-story brick addition on the east side of the house. Erected sometime after the construction of the original house, it was used as a kitchen. A stone floor from that kitchen is still found under the current wood floor. Dormers are visible in these photographs and may have been added to the third floor during Fountain Beattie's occupation (1878-1914). These photographs also show the addition of an enclosed front porch (later removed) which replaced two of the original front windows with doors. When the porch was removed in the 1930s, the doors were replaced with two floor-to-ceiling windows.⁴

Remodeling: The brick house has been remodeled on a number of occasions during its history. The first documented remodeling is visible in the photographs mentioned above. In the 1930s, Minnie Whitesell remodeled the house to stabilize it. A few interior photographs from that era indicate refurbished woodwork and a renovated east (kitchen) wing.

In 1942, owners Belinda and Michael Straight employed Walter Macomber to renovate the brick house and spring house. Under Macomber's direction, a two-story west wing was added to the house, the east wing of Green Spring's brick house was rebuilt and

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expanded, and a sun porch was added to the east wing. Macomber created one large room on each side of the hall on the first floor (a dining room and a library) by removing load-bearing walls, reconfigured the fireplaces in each of the rooms, and redesigned the interiors in the Colonial Revival style. In the dining room, he left some original woodwork and built cupboards and cabinets. In the library, he turned the staircase 180°, installed paneling and built cupboards and shelves using materials removed from an eighteenth-century tavern in Maryland. He converted the existing east wing from a one-story kitchen to two stories with a living room on the first floor and a small room with a bathroom on the second floor. Macomber also added woodwork from the same Maryland tavern on the east wall of the living room. The newly constructed west wing contained a modern kitchen on the first floor and a bedroom and bathroom on the second floor. A number of cupboards and built-in drawer units were added on the second floor although some original woodwork was retained. According to Macomber, he personally built and installed most of the woodwork on the first and second floors of the brick house. The design of the attic level, intended to be rooms for the Straight children, is much simpler with minimal woodwork. One bathroom was added to the two bedrooms on the attic level.⁵

As a result of the removal of a number of load-bearing walls, renovations by Michael Straight in 1960 and the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1976 and 1994 were needed to stabilize the building by adding steel support beams.⁶ The Park Authority renovation also replaced windows and floors that had deteriorated. In the basement, the Park Authority modified the Straight basement configuration to accommodate a sump pump and to stabilize foundation walls. The only significant loss from the Macomber remodeling was the replacement of the Straights' kitchen and butler's pantry with an upgraded kitchen and bathroom in the 1970s and the installation of a catering kitchen in 2000 to meet health codes for programs offered by the Park Authority in the house.

Spring House (Contributing resource: building #2)

Description: No date has been associated with the building of the spring house; however, the building was probably standing by 1838 based on an advertisement in the *Alexandria Gazette* that lists a spring house as one of the outbuildings when the property was offered for sale. Originally a stone building built into the side of a hill, the spring house is clearly visible in an 1880s photograph taken during the Beattie era.⁷

Additions/Remodeling: The spring house was remodeled by Walter Macomber in 1942.

At that time, an addition was built to provide a residence for the Straight family gardener and housekeeper, John and Carmella Quast.

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The Macomber-designed spring house was remodeled again in the 1960s; a porch on the front was converted to enclosed living space on the first floor. Additionally, the rear of the spring house was exposed when the hill was cut back and a retaining wall built.⁸ The Park Authority rented the spring house to staff members for a number of years but it has now been recognized as a historic structure and further research on its surviving historic fabric is currently underway. Colonial Revival-style woodwork, probably designed and installed by Walter Macomber, is extant within the house.

Architectural losses from the landscape include the following:

Barn: A two-story barn, used by Michael Straight to provide housing for servants, was removed by the Park Authority due to its deteriorated condition and potential for collapse.

Log Cabin: A one-story log cabin moved to the property by Minnie Whitesell in the 1930s and used by the Straight family as a guest house was removed by the Park Authority because it was beyond condition for repair/restoration.

Shed: A long low shed, open on one side and used by the Straight family as a stable for horses and ponies, was removed by the Park Authority. The footprint of this building's foundation is still visible during dry weather.

Other landscape features:

Early-19th-century cemetery: Documentary evidence and oral tradition indicate the presence of a cemetery from the Moss era (1777-1838) on the northeast side of the brick house. No surface evidence of the cemetery survives today although oral tradition indicates surviving gravestones in the 1940s. Further research is needed to locate the Moss cemetery. Recent archaeology by Fairfax County revealed the presence of three grave shafts on the west side of the house but the identity of individuals buried and the date of the burials is unknown.

Archaeological remains: Site 44FX1954 was identified as a result of archaeological survey conducted in 1992 to determine the advisability of improving an irrigation system near the house. Both front and rear lawns were evaluated with proton-magnetometer and ground-penetrating radar technology. Building rubble was located northeast of the house. On the east side of the brick house, archaeology located three large post holes

forming one corner of a structure dating to the third quarter of the 18th century. Archaeologists believe this to be the site of the original exterior kitchen. Several other archaeological resources, including a Native American site, also have been identified.

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Further research to identify and document the contents of these areas is recommended.⁹

Subterranean brick vault (Contributing resource: structure): This vault, northwest of the brick house, measures approximately 10 feet deep, 3 feet wide, and 8 feet long. It contains a metal tank and pipes and is located on the slope above the spring house. Although it appears to be a means of providing gravity-fed running water to the spring house residence during the Straight era, further research is needed to determine the historic use of this vault.

Small 4-chambered stone structure (Contributing resource: structure): Located along Green Spring Road near the spring house, this structure survives but its original purpose has not been identified. It appears in an 1880s era photograph of the landscape but there are no clues in the photograph as to its use.

Conclusion: While there have been additions and losses from the historic landscape created during the Michael Straight era by Beatrix Farrand and Walter Macomber, these do not detract from the survival of significant architectural and landscape fabric of the era. The view lines from the house to various areas of the landscape, clearly visible on Farrand's sketch, remain unchanged today. Significant original plantings and garden hardscape also remain.

The areas of the brick house to which the public has access on the first floor remains nearly as Walter Macomber installed it. On the second floor, carpet has been installed but little else has been changed. The attic level retains some fabric of the original structure (plaster and lath). Wallpaper, paint, and woodwork from the Straight era are still extant on this floor.

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Statement of Significance:

Green Spring is historically significant under Criterion C in landscape architecture and architecture because it represents the work of two American masters of the Colonial Revival in landscape design and architectural style, Beatrix Farrand and Walter Macomber. Green Spring is the only known collaboration between Farrand and Macomber. Beatrix Farrand is recognized as a pioneer of American landscape design who completed hundreds of commissions during her career. She was the only female among the founders of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the landscape architect for Dumbarton Oaks, Princeton, Vassar, the University of Chicago, Oberlin College, and numerous private residences in New York, New England, and California. Born into New York City society during the Gilded Age, Farrand was the niece of Edith Wharton who used her social connections to establish a landscape design career; she studied with Charles Sprague Sargent, the founder and director of the Arnold Arboretum. In 1942, she accepted her only commission in Virginia and drew a preliminary sketch for the garden at Green Spring. Farrand brought gardeners and stonemasons who had worked with her at Dumbarton Oaks to Green Spring and directed the installation of the garden at Green Spring. Green Spring was Farrand's only garden in Virginia and her only collaboration with Walter Macomber. She was 70 years old at the time she directed the garden's installation and Green Spring was one of the last commissions in her life.¹⁰

Walter Macomber was an important figure in twentieth-century American architecture as an architect involved with the first five years of Colonial Williamsburg's restoration and thirty years as the resident architect for Mount Vernon. He was also the architect for the State Department Reception Rooms in Washington, DC. A noted architect of the Colonial Revival style, he built a career out of renovating and redesigning old houses for private owners. One of the houses he redesigned was the brick house at Green Spring. He also redesigned the spring house at Green Spring to create a residence for the site's groundskeeper and housekeeper.¹¹

Green Spring is also significant because the late-18th-century brick house is one of the few rural houses of that period surviving in Fairfax County. Although primarily an example of the Colonial Revival since its renovation in 1942, the house still retains its exterior Colonial architectural character with its Flemish-bond brickwork, tall and broad interior-end chimneys, and general scale and proportions.

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Historical Background and Significance:

Michael and Belinda Straight selected Green Spring for their family residence because of the historic nature of the property. Green Spring had a long history prior to its 1942 redesign by Beatrix Farrand and Walter Macomber. The land now known as Green Spring first appears in the historic record as a grant in 1706 from the 5th Lord Fairfax to John West, William Harrison, Thomas Pearson, and Thomas Harrison. A history of the site's purchase, sale, and transfers (based on primary source materials) is found in Nan and Ross Netherton's book, *Green Spring Farm: Fairfax County Virginia*, included in the bibliography of this document.

The Moss family's era of ownership shaped the early landscape of the property. In 1777 John Moss purchased the property at Green Spring and approximately 1,200 additional acres in northern Virginia. Moss served the crown as commissioner of the king's revenue and justice of the county court. He was a captain in the Revolutionary Army, served on a commission to monitor the 1788 presidential election, was an overseer of the poor, commissioner of revenue for Fairfax County, commissioner of land tax, and county court justice. During his lifetime, Green Spring crops included tobacco, corn, and wheat.

When John Moss died in 1809, the Green Spring property was divided between his sons William and Thomas. Thomas received the portion of the property that contained the current boundaries of Green Spring. Both sons continued to farm and diversified into orchards and dairy farming. William and Thomas also played public service roles. William was clerk of the county court and served as clerk of circuit court; Thomas Moss served on the Little River Turnpike Board of Directors and was superintendent of the "lower" district of the road. He also served as a Fairfax County delegate to the Virginia State Assembly in 1828 and, when William died, Thomas completed his term as clerk of circuit court.

When Thomas Moss died in 1839, the Green Spring property (about 340 acres) was sold to James Sherrif who sold it twelve years later to Hannah O'Brien who owned Green Spring throughout the Civil War. An 1861 map shows four taverns along Little River Turnpike on the property.

In 1877, Hannah O'Brien lost the Green Spring property after co-signing for her son's gambling debts. Fountain Beattie, a member of Mosby's Raiders during the Civil War, purchased the

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property. Beattie grew vegetables and fruit and distilled cider and brandy in the spring house. To increase living space for his growing family, he added the east wing to the brick house and dormers in the attic.

Three owners moved through Green Spring between 1917 and 1931. The only owner of note, Frederick Segesserman (1924-1931) established a boxwood nursery on the property.

In 1931, Minnie Whitesell purchased Green Spring. She is credited with saving the brick house which, as seen in archival photographs, was in poor condition. Against the advice of her architect to demolish the house, Ms. Whitesell invested in its renovation. She also subdivided the property into smaller tracts.¹²

Michael and Belinda Straight bought the house and thirty-three acres from Minnie Whitesell in 1942. Michael Straight is the son of Willard D. Straight (a business associate of J. P. Morgan) and of Dorothy Payne Whitney, daughter of William C. Whitney. Mr. Straight is an economist, a writer, and editor and publisher of *The New Republic*, a publication started by his parents. He was also the deputy chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and active in international affairs. Belinda Straight is a noted child psychologist who specializes in treating abused children. The Straights entertained guests of national and international importance at Green Spring including scientists Julian Huxley and Leo Szilard, authors Aldous Huxley and Saul Bellow, poet Dylan Thomas, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, and political leader Hubert Humphrey.¹³

In 1970, Belinda and Michael Straight donated sixteen acres of their Green Spring property to Fairfax County. Since that time, the Fairfax County Park Authority has preserved the historic character of the site and established a public garden on portions of the property that were outside the historic zone. The brick house was completely renovated in 1994. At that time, the Macomber woodwork on the first floor was carefully deconstructed, meticulously numbered and stored while steel support beams were installed to support the second and third floors of the house. The woodwork was then carefully installed. Today, a modern building remote from the brick house provides office and program space for the horticulture, program, and administrative staff. The brick house provides space for small public programs on the first floor and space for four staff members on the second floor.

For the above history alone, Green Spring would be significant to local and Virginia state history as a paradigm illustrating northern Virginia land use history from the 18th to the 20th centuries. It is, however, the historic collaboration between Beatrix Farrand and Walter Macomber in 1942 that

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raises Green Spring to a historic designed landscape of national significance as an example of the Colonial Revival style of the mid-twentieth century.

Colonial Revival architecture developed as a building style that exalted and romanticized the architectural and landscape design of the colonial era. As Americans faced massive immigration and labor unrest in the late 19th century, they wanted new homes and gardens that evoked the roots of the nation. In the twentieth century, as the nation embraced the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, Colonial Revival added a preservation ethic, the desire to restore old houses from the colonial era.

Colonial Revival architecture and gardens are often ephemeral in today's society. Historic house museums and other organizations in the public sector such as Colonial Williamsburg and Mount Vernon are rapidly erasing the visible aspects of the Colonial Revival and replacing them with historically accurate architecture, furnishings, and garden designs of the eighteenth century. Colonial Revival is sometimes treated as an historical embarrassment. Homes and gardens in private hands are routinely redesigned as new owners or new styles take precedence over the Colonial Revival style. While Colonial Revival architecture continues as a style for new homes, the Colonial Revival style of the last half of the 20th century is rapidly disappearing. At Green Spring, however, the work of Walter Macomber and Beatrix Farrand survives for future historical reference.

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Boundary Description

On the north, the boundary of the historic site is the boundary line of the park and private properties located on Vale Street. On the west, where private property forms the western boundary of the road, the boundary is the east edge of Green Spring Road. Where park property lies to the west of the road, the boundary is 20 feet to the west of Green Spring Road. On the south, the boundary is the present-day parking lot (technically this is a portion of Green Spring Road). On the east the boundary is a diagonal line from the parking lot, 10 feet east of the remnants of the Straight driveway, that intersects and then follows the border of the park's brick walking path; from that point, the boundary continues as a diagonal line that intersects with the north boundary of the park along the eastern edge of the northeast pond.

The nominated property's boundary is delineated with a heavy dark line on the sketch map provided.

Boundary Justification

The area delineated by the boundaries cited is the section of the site that contains all of the known features from the Moss, Beattie, and Straight family ownership eras. Photographic and archaeological evidence indicates the delineated area was the core of family life and economic activity throughout the site's documented history. Although other areas of the site are known to have been used by Green Spring's owners for farming or social activities, no physical evidence of those functions remain. Although areas outside the boundaries of the historic section are important in retaining the setting and feeling of the era of primary historical significance, the remainder of the park and areas adjacent to it that were once part of the Green Spring property were altered significantly in the second half of the twentieth century. The area within the cited boundary is the only remnant of the historical property that retains the integrity to justify listing on the National Register.

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Bibliography

Balmori, Diana, Diane Kostial McGuire, Eleanor M. McPeck. *Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes: Her Gardens & Campuses*. (Sagaponack, NY: Sagapress, Inc., 1985).

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Quast, Carmella (wife of John Quest, gardener at Green Spring Farm during the Straight residency). Interviews conducted by Sherrie L. Chapman, 1998-2001. Fairfax County Park Authority Collections.

Straight, Belinda. Interview conducted by Sherrie L. Chapman, October 6, 2002. Fairfax County Park Authority Collections.

Straight, Michael. Interviews conducted by Sherrie L. Chapman, September 11-12, 2002. Fairfax County Park Authority Collections.

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Green Spring
Fairfax County, VA

Section: Photographs Page: 14

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1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Michael Straight
 4. Winter 1942-43
 5. Location of original negative: Unknown
 6. Aerial view of brick house and historic designed landscape; camera looking north
 7. #1 of 14
-

1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. January 2003
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. Aerial view of brick house and historic designed landscape; camera looking north
 7. #2 of 14
-

1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. January 2003
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. Aerial view of brick house, historic designed landscape, and surrounding area; camera looking north
 7. #3 of 14
-

1. Green Spring
2. Fairfax County, Virginia
3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
4. September 2002
5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
6. South (front) facade of brick house; camera looking north
7. #4 of 14

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Green Spring
Fairfax County, VA

Section: Photographs Page: 15

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1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. September 2002
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. North façade of brick house; camera looking south
 7. #5 of 14
-

1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. January 2003
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. West façade of brick house; camera looking east
 7. #6 of 14
-

1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. September 2002
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. Interior, brick house; west wall of first-floor room; woodwork by Walter Macomber; camera looking west
 7. #7 of 14
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1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. September 2002
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. Interior, brick house; east wall of first-floor room; woodwork by Walter Macomber; camera looking east
 7. #8 of 14
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Green Spring
Fairfax County, VA

1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. September 2002
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. Interior, brick house; west wall of first-floor room; woodwork by Walter Macomber; camera looking west
 7. #9 of 14
-

1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. September 2002
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. Interior, brick house; east wall of first-floor room; woodwork by Walter Macomber; camera looking east.
 7. #10 of 14
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1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. September 2002
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. North (rear) garden; designed by and installed under supervision of Beatrix Farrand; camera looking northeast
 7. #11 of 14
-

1. Green Spring
2. Fairfax County, Virginia
3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
4. September 2002
5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
6. Retaining wall behind boxwood hedge, north garden; designed by and installed under supervision of Beatrix Farrand; light colored stone indicates level of previously existing wall, dark stone added in 1942 to raise level of the lawn; camera looking east
7. #12 of 14

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**Green Spring
Fairfax County, VA**

Section: Photographs Page : 17

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1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. September 2002
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. West façade, spring house; camera looking east
 7. #13 of 14

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1. Green Spring
 2. Fairfax County, Virginia
 3. Photographer: Don Sweeney
 4. February 2003
 5. Location of original negative: Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources Archives
 6. Interior, spring house; second floor; woodwork by Walter Macomber; camera looking south
 7. #14 of 14

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Fairfax County, VA

Section: Endnotes Page: 11
Endnotes

¹ Nan and Ross Netherton. *Green Spring Farm: Fairfax County, Virginia*. (Fairfax, Virginia: Office of Comprehensive Planning, 1997), 64.

² Beatrix Farrand. Preliminary Sketch of proposed design for Straight gardens dated October 1942 (located in Farrand papers at the University of California, Berkeley); Carmella Quast interviews conducted by Sherrie L. Chapman, 1998-2001.

³ HABS Inventory Sheet, includes documentation by George Worthington (August 12, 1958) and by Nan Netherton's 1996 Virginia Landmarks Commission report; Netherton, *Green Spring Farm*, 39-41.

⁴ Carmella Quast photograph collection in Fairfax County Park Authority collections.

⁵ Netherton, *Green Spring Farm*, 43-47.

⁶ Netherton, *Green Spring Farm*, 47 ; construction plans in Fairfax County Park Authority collections.

⁷ Netherton, *Green Spring Farm*, 10-11.

⁸ Quast photographs.

⁹ Fairfax County Park Authority, Division of Historic Preservation. Archeology Report completed by Richard J. Dent, PhD., Director, Potomac Run Archeology Survey of the American University. January 28, 1992, 5-12.

¹⁰ Diana Balmori, Diane Kostial McGuire, Eleanor M. McPeck. *Beatrix Farrand's American Landscapes: Her Gardens & Campuses*. (Sagaponack, NY: Sagapress, Inc., 1985), 3-7, 40-44, 197-202.

¹¹ Michael Straight. Interviews conducted by Sherrie L. Chapman, September 11-12, 2002. Fairfax County Park Authority Collections; Netherton, *Green Spring Farm*, 43-49.

¹² Netherton, *Green Spring Farm*, 13-14, 21, 31.

¹³ Michael Straight interview; Belinda Straight. Interview conducted by Sherrie L. Chapman, October 6, 2002. Fairfax County Park Authority Collections.